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District Attorney Announces Two Indictments of Williamson County Deputies in Javier Ambler Case

AUSTIN, TX -- Today, Travis County District Attorney José Garza announced the return of two indictments by a Travis County grand jury—one against former Williamson County Sheriff's Deputy James Johnson and one against former Williamson County Sheriff's Deputy Zachary Camden. Each man has been charged with 2nd degree Manslaughter in the death of Javier Ambler. The court has set bail in the amount of \$150,000 for each man and has set conditions including a prohibition on employment with law enforcement agencies or security companies. Their charges will be prosecuted by the District Attorney Office's Civil Rights Unit and is pending in the 299th Judicial District Court.

"With these indictments, we have taken another critical step towards justice for the Ambler family and for our community," said District Attorney Garza. "While we can never take away the pain of the Ambler family, the grand jury has sent a clear message that no one is above the law."

"Some will inevitably seek to undermine the judgement of the grand jury in their own self-interest," continued Garza. "A grand jury is an independent group of representatives of the community, sworn in to uphold their duties, and a critical part of society that enables the public to assess the evidence and participate in the administration of justice. We thank the jury that rendered this decision for their service to justice."

In addition, the same grand jury heard evidence related to Austin Police Department Officer Michael Nissen's involvement in the incident, considered all relevant charges, and returned a No Bill for the officer. District Attorney Garza announced his intent to present Mr. Ambler's case to a Travis County Grand Jury prior to the expiration of its term on March 31, 2021. In keeping with a commitment to transparency in these cases, the District Attorney's Office has been publicly releasing updates every 14 days on every case pending in the Office's Civil Rights Unit. The most recent update can be found [here](#). This indictment follows an [indictment](#) earlier this month from the Travis County District Attorney's Office against an Austin Police Department officer for the charge of 1st degree Murder of Michael Ramos.

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